

Applicant Name Superior, Town of
Project Name Superior Water System Improvements

Project Abstract

The water system that serves Superior residents was privately owned by the Mountain Water Company in Missoula, but was recently purchased by the town and is now operated as a government-owned utility. The water supply is derived from three wells located in the community which provide adequate and good quality water. Storage is provided with a 400,000-gallon steel storage tank, generally adequate for domestic use but limited in volume for fire protection. The distribution system is made up of about 55,500 lineal feet of a variety of types of water mains ranging in size from one inch to 12 inches in diameter. More than 45% of the entire distribution system is undersized and is constructed of steel or cast iron pipe four inches and less in diameter. Many of these smaller diameter lines are estimated to be 50 to 70 years old. In addition, about 26% of the "water mains" in the system are one or two inches in diameter. Unaccounted for water losses total about 27% in the system; much of the leakage originates from the old mains and services. Water modeling indicates that much of the distribution system cannot provide adequate fire protection for larger business and institutional structures located throughout the community. The proposed project will replace or upgrade almost 10% of the total lineal footage of the water system. The project will conserve water resources through reduction in leakage and reduce energy utilized to pump water through small-diameter and corroded water lines. A large percentage of the new mains are in business areas constrained by lack of adequate water. New business growth can be anticipated with additional water resources. The improvements will significantly enhance the ability of the town to provide adequate supplies of water.